WHY WE MASK: IT'S NOT "JUST A COLD" - Printing Instructions

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Basic info:

This zine is 16 page-spreads total, and prints double-sided on 8 pages of 8.5"x11" letter sized paper. It's oriented horizontally (aka landscape) and uses short-edge binding (aka flip on short edge). Look inside the "Print Version" folder for "Why We Mask printing directions" screenshots with notes on them if you'd like some visuals.

Directions:

Open the "2025 Why We Mask Print Order Letter" pdf if you are in so-called "North America", or "2025 Why We Mask Print Order A4" if you live anywhere else. Select Print, then input all the above details before pressing Okay. Depending on your computer and printer, you may have to look through submenus to find the double-sided printing options. If you need more help with print settings, try the "WHY WE MASK printing directions" pngs included in this folder.

You can swap out different colors and use a heavier paper weight for the cover if you like, but it's designed to print as cheaply as possible in black and white on normal text weight paper. It can be printed on photocopiers as well as digital printers (the kind often found in libraries, schools, offices, commercial printers, etc) including smaller home printers (though that's not as cost effective for lots of copies). It can also be printed on a risograph printer, but those might require more specific instructions. Sometimes I've had issues with Firefox PDF Viewer inverting the black and white on the cover for some reason but opening the file in different programs fixes this problem.

Once you have printed out all 8 double-sided pages, place them in an ordered, collated stack and straighten the edges. Using an open or long-armed stapler, staple twice along the vertical center line where the spine will be (that's a vertical line perpendicular to 5.5" on the 11" horizontal edge of the page).

You can use a normal stapler if you fold it open, and place your copies on top of a hard durable surface you won't mind getting scratched by staples. If you use a soft surface, the stapler won't be able to bend the staples properly and their little spikey arms will stick out. You can bend those down with tools, but it's a pain. You also may be able to fit the zine into a normal stapler if you gently roll back the pages without creasing them. Longarm staplers avoid these issues, and they're available at most office supply stores for fairly cheap. They're also sometimes found in arts centers,

libraries, schools, etc. You can also bind copies with needle and thread and awl, but it’s a lot of work.

After you’ve stapled the stack of paper, fold it in half along that center line to turn it into a proper zine! The pages should all be right side up and in numerical order. I recommend using a spoon or the handle of a pair of scissors to get a crisp fold. If you prefer, you can also fold first and then staple, whatever makes the most sense to you. Final bonus step is to stack your copies (alternating directions every 10 copies or so to keep them from falling over) and then squish them for a few hours with heavy objects. This is not necessary but makes them look very nice imo C:

Good luck and happy zine-making! Feel free to reach out to me at laurelleake@gmail.com if you run into any further print issues and I’ll try to help troubleshoot. Thank you so much for supporting my zine and stay safe out there!